

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9704

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 405

UNCLAS GABORONE 0756

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR RH, BC

SUBJECT BOTSWANA FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON SUPPORT FOR ZIMBABWE

PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. SUMMARY: HERewith ARE TRANSMITTED SALIENT POINTS OF MARCH 25 STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE. THE SPEECH EXPLAINS WHY BOTSWANA AND OTHER FRONTLINE STATES SUPPORT PATRIOTIC FRONT, BUT AT SAME TIME CAUTIONS THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE PEOPLES. COMMENT BY SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MOGWE BEGAN BY NOTHING THAT LUSAKA MEETING OF FRONTLINE HEADS OF STATE (JANUARY 9, 1977) GAVE PROMINENCE TO PATRIOTIC FRONT BY PLEDGING FULL POLITICAL, MATERIAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THE OBJECTIVES OF THEIR JUST STRUGGLE. HE CONTINUED BY OUTLINING THE PAST THREE YEARS
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HISTORY OF FAILED NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH, DIVISIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST POLITICAL MOVEMENTS, AND THE UNFORTUNATE ATTEMPTS TO UNIFY THEIR MILITARY CADRES INTO ZIPA.

3. LAUNCHING INTO HIS MAIN THEME, MOGWE SAID: QUOTE: THE PROLIFERATION OF LIBERATION ARMIES IN ZIMBABWE WOULD BE A VERY UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT.

DEVELOPMENT. IT COULD NOT POSSIBLY SPEED UP THE LIBERATION OF

THAT COUNTRY. ON THE CONTRARY, THE EXISTENCE OF NUMEROUS RIVAL
LIBERATION ARMIES WOULD ONLY DELAY, AND INJECT EVEN MORE BITTERNESS
INTO, THE STRUGGLE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE. THE
PARAMOUNT NEED IN THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IS FOR UNITY. AND
THE FORMATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
AND THE FORMATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP
IN THIS DIRECTION. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE FRONT LINE
PRESIDENTS PLEDGED TO GIVE THE FRONT POLITICAL, MATERIAL AND
DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. BUT THE SEARCH FOR UNITY SHOULD NOT END WITH
THE FORMATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THIS SEARCH MUST CONTINUE
UNTIL THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN ZIMBABWE SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE.
QUOTE: THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS TO
ANNOUNCE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DID NOT CONCERN
ITSELF WITH THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, AND RIGHTLY SO. FOR THE
PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DID NOT IMPLY THE
WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION FROM OTHER ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION GROUPS.
NOR IS IT FOR THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS OR ANYBODY ELSE OTHER
THAN THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD
LEAD THAT COUNTRY AFTER IT IS LIBERATED. TO DO SO WOULD BE
TO DENY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE ONE OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.
QUOTE: I AM AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION OF THE FRONTLINE
PRESIDENTS HAS BEEN WIDELY MISINTERPRETED. IT IS SAID, FOR
INSTANCE, THAT IN EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS ARE, IN EFFECT, REJECTING THE
CREDENTIALS OF THE OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, CHOOSING THE
FUTURE LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE AND IMPOSING THOSE LEADERS ON THE
PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY. IF THIS WERE INDEED SO, BOTSWANA
WOULD HAVE HAD NO PART IN THE EXERCISE.
QUOTE: IN THE VIEW OF THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT, NO ZIMBABWEAN
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LIBERATION GROUP IS IRRELEVANT TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN
THAT COUNTRY. ALSO, BOTSWANA IS TOO STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE
PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION EVER TO PERMIT ITSELF TO INDULGE
IN THE KIND OF INTERFERENCE SUGGESTED BY OUR CRITICS. OUR SOLE
INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY IS TO SEE ITS PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR
INDEPENDENCE. H THUS ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, WE REJECT
ANY SUGGESTION THAT IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE
OF ZIMBABWE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE. OUR DESIRE IS TO SEE ZIMBABWE
LIBERATED AND FREE FROM ALL FOREIGN AND IMPERIALIST INTERFERENCE
SO THAT AS NEIGHBORS WE CAN TOGETHER CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST
THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF OUR REGION. END QUOTE.
4. COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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